

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

ADVERTISER FARM AND HOME HOUP

WRITER

PROGRAM TITLE UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS EPISODE #008

CHICAGO OUTLET WMAQ - BLUE

TIME

11:30 - 12:30

DATE

OCTOBER 6, 1939

DAY

FRIDAY

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers.

MUSIC: QUARTET, Rangers' Song.

ANNOUNCER: As the Autumn season announces the coming of colder weather, farmers and ranchers replenish their supplies of provisions for their families and for their livestock, put their implements under shelter, repair their buildings, and try to complete the many other jobs they want to get done before winter sets in. On the National Forests Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers follow a similar routine. Our story today is set around one of the large number of tasks which must be done each fall. -- And now on the Pine Cone National Forest, Ranger Jim Robbins and assistant Ranger Jerry Quick are about ready to leave for a day on the forest. -- But something seems to have upset their plans. Jim is now sitting before the short-wave radio set in his office. Mary Halloway, the local school teacher, just stopped in a moment ago ---

JERRY: Jim's trying to get hold of Slim, our mule skinner. Mary--

MARY: Oh.

JIM: Uh huh. He's up at the Bright Canyon road camp. We sent him up there with a truck load of supplies yesterday morning, and he was supposed to get back last night.

MARY: It must have broken Slim's heart to have to carry supplies on a truck instead of his faithful Bertha.

JIM: It did for a fact. But he's supposed to be here now to take his faithful steed up Bright Mountain with a load of supplies for our guard cabins.

SLIM: (FILTER) Uh -- hello -- hullo, Jim -- are you -- can you --

JIM: Hello, Slim. I'm down here at the station.

SLIM: (FILTER) Can ye hear me all right? Am I talkin' loud enough?

JIM: Yes, I can hear you. I thought you were going to come back to town last night.

SLIM: (FILTER) There was a landslide blocked the road down below the camp about fifteen miles, Jim. We couldn't git through 'til this morning. That's whatcha git fer sending these supplies up here by truck instead of lettin' me pack 'em in with Bertha.

JIM: Well, we figured you'd be here this morning to take Bertha up Bright Mountain with a load of supplies. The string's almost packed now.

SLIM: (FILTER) I couldn't make it back to town in time to do any good, Jim. We gotta unload and check this stuff we brung in.

JIM: All right, Slim. I'll tell you what we'll do. Jerry and I have to come to the road camp anyhow. We'll wrangle the pack string as far as the camp and you can take over from there.

SLIM: (FILTER) All right, Jim. Is Bertha happy, do you think?

JIM: I reckon so, Slim. We haven't had any trouble out of her yet.

1 SLIM: (FILTER) Well now you be careful comin' through the
2 mouth of the canyon where the trail's narrow. Sometimes
3 Bertha gits a little bit skittish and you hafta sorta be
4 gentle with her.

5 JIM: We'll do right by her, Slim. See you later.

6 CLICK OF SWITCH

7 JERRY: I'm not crazy about this idea of us takin' Bertha to
8 Bright Canyon.

9 MARY: Why, Jerry, Slim would be hurt if he heard you talk that
10 way.

11 JIM: (CHUCKLING) I reckon we can make out for one day of it,
12 son.

13 JERRY: I always did say you were too optimistic, Jim.

14 MARY: Why do you have to carry the supplies by pack train?
15 Can't they go in trucks?

16 JIM: They could go as far as the road camp, Mary. But these
17 supplies are to stock the guard cabins on Bright Mountain.

18 MARY: Is someone living in the cabins now?

19 JERRY: Not now. It's for this winter, when some of the fellas
20 go up there for game patrol or snow survey.

21 JIM: We keep the cabins stocked for emergencies, too. Kinda
22 like the trappers in the north country, when they have
23 several food caches along their trap lines.

24 JERRY: Think the boys'll have the string packed by now, Jim?
25

JIM: They ought to. (FADING) Let's go out and see. The
sooner we get under way -----

MUSIC UP AND OUT

JERRY: Guess we're all set, Jim, soon's I get this saddle girth
tightened. (GRUNTS) That's better.

HORSE STOMPS HOOVES

JIM: Whoa, Dolly easy girl.

JERRY: Even old Dolly doesn't like the idea of leadin' this
pesky string of pack mules, Jim.

JIM: She'll get used to it -- say, how about that first-aid
stuff? Did you check to see if it went into the packs?

JERRY: Yeah, it's in. And I put the radio set on top of
Bertha's pack.

JIM: That's good. Well, I guess we're all set.

JERRY: Looks like it.

JIM: Do you remember what technique Slim uses to get Bertha
started?

JERRY: All the technique he ever thought up doesn't amount to
a hill of beans. When Bertha wants to move, she does.
When she doesn't want to, she doesn't.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) Well, that's simple enough.

JERRY: I wish I had Slim's vocabulary. I'm pretty sure that
has a lot to do with it.

JIM: I know he kinda coos to her, when he wants to start her
off.

JERRY: Not always, Jim.

JIM: Well, what's he do?

JERRY: Sometimes he yells like a Commanche Indian.

JIM: Are you sure he does?

JERRY: I've seen him do it.

JIM: I always thought he talked soft and low to her for the first hour.

JERRY: Well, maybe it's the second hour when he shouts.

JIM: You go ahead and see if you can get her started.

JERRY: Gosh, Jim, I don't know how to go about it.

JIM: Supposin' we just get on our horses and lead off.

JERRY: Oh, no, Jim, you couldn't get away with anything as easy as that.

JIM: Let's try it and see what happens, anyhow.

JERRY: Okay.

HORSES STOMP HOOVES

JERRY: Whoa, Spark. Whoa.

JIM: All set?

JERRY: Wish I had a four-leaf clover or a rabbit's foot.

JIM: Here goes. Come on, Bertha.

THE "CLICK...CLOCK" OF HOOVES IS HEARD AS THE PACK STRING AND HORSES START MOVING

JERRY: (WITH SUPPRESSED EXCITEMENT) She's coming right along, Jim. Something must be wrong with her.

JIM: Be quiet, you'll break the charm.

JERRY: I can't believe it. She started up without batting an eye. I'll bet she drops dead.

JIM: Sh-h-h. Don't talk about it. You might give her ideas. And we've got a day's ride ahead of us.

6. MUSIC UP AND OUT

8. MUSIC SEQUES SLOWLY INTO SOUND. MUSIC UP AND OUT

7. JERRY: I've got another sandwich here, Jim.

8. JIM: No thanks. I've had enough to last me till supper.

9. JERRY: Okay, I'll put this in the saddle bag. Just in case ----

10. JIM: Reckon we might as well get under way.

11. JERRY: It's only about five miles to the road camp isn't it?

12. JIM: Maybe six.

13. JERRY: After we get through the canyon it'll be easy goin'.

14. JIM: Yep.

15. JERRY: Think we can get Bertha started again?

16. JIM: Don't talk about it. Let's take it for granted.

17. JERRY: Surprise her, huh?

18. JIM: That's right.

19. HORSE STOMP HOOVESJIM: Whoa, Dolly. Stand still now. (STEPPING INTO

20. SADDLE) Easy, girl.

21. JERRY: Steady, Spark.

22. JIM: All right, Bertha. Come along.

23. WE HEAR BERTHA START, FOLLOWED BY THE OTHER PACK ANIMALS. BUT AFTER THE
24. FIRST FEW STEPS BERTHA SLOWS DOWN AND COMES TO A COMPLETE STOP.

25. JERRY: Oh, boy. We're in for it, Jim.

1. JIM: Sh-h-h -- (SCOTHINGLY) Come on, Bertha. Come on now

2. JERRY: (SHARPER) Hite, Bertha. Come along.

3. JIM: (CLUCKING) Step along, Bertha. All right now.

4. JERRY: I was afraid it was too good to last.

5. JIM: Come one, Bertha. Giddap now. Giddap. (CLUCKING)

6. Bertha. Come on, old girl.

7. BERTHA STARTS, TAKES A FEW STEPS, AND STOPS AS BEFORE (NOTE: The

8. starting and stopping should follow the same rhythm patten

9. each time)

10. JERRY: Well, -- looks like we re going to spend the rest of the

11. day in this vicinity. Jim.

12. JIM: Don't give up yet. We're only getting started.

13. JERRY: I'll talk to her nice and sweet, like Slim does --

14. (DRIPPINGLY) Come along my sweet little Bertha. Nice

15. Bertha. Come along my little brown eyed nymph before

16. I kick your ribs in.

17. JIM: Careful there, son. You can't fool Bertha like that.

18. She's a mule of great understanding.

19. JERRY: I've never been around when she was working at it.

20. JIM: She'll surprise you one of these days.

21. JERRY: I wish she'd do it today.

22. JIM: Let me talk to her --- All right, Bertha. Giddap.

23. BERTHA STARTS AGAIN, TAKES A FEW STEPS, AND STOPS AS BEFORE.

24. JERRY: She's still there, Jim.

25. JIM: How much ground did we gain that time?

JERRY: About two yards. It's fourth down and three to go.

JIM: I wish Slim was here.

JERRY: I'll say. At least he can speak her language.

JIM: He knows the right words for the right time.

JERRY: That's the most important thing of all.

JIM: Well, we'll try it again -- Giddap now, Bertha. Come on. Stir yourself old girl. Step along, Bertha.

JERRY: Giddap, you fugitive from a glue factory.

BERTHA STARTS AGAIN. AND AGAIN SHE STOPS

JERRY: This is where we came in.

JIM: Well, we make a little progress every time. If we can keep this up long enough, we might get there before the first snow.

JERRY: Let's both try it at once, Jim.

JIM: Think it'll do any good?

JERRY: You never can tell.

JIM: All right. Let's see what happens.

JERRY: Come on, Bertha. Get up that trail.

(THEY START TALKING TOGETHER, GRADUALLY INCREASING IN VOLUME, TENSE AND SINCERITY)

1 JIM: Giddap Bertha Giddap JERRY: Bertha you lazy low-down
2 Get along with you All good-for-nothing excuse for a
3 right, you old bag of pack rule, if you don't
4 bones. Move along Bertha start up that trail you'll
5 Giddap I say You doggoned get the holy daylights kicked
6 old varmint Git now Git right out of you And I'm
7 along before I brain you with just the man that can do it
8 a pick axe Step along All Come on Bertha Snap out of
9 right Bertha Up the trail it Come on (SHOUTING)
10 with you Up the trail Git, Now, Bertha Now Step on
11 you old-slab-sided critter it Step on it Giddap
12 (SHOUTING) Giddap I say Bertha
13 Giddap
14 JIM: (PANTING) Man, I'm all in
15 JERRY: I'll lose my voice if I keep that up much longer
16 JIM: She hasn't moved another inch
17 JERRY: She's getting worse instead of better
18 JIM: I'm beginning to think it was a mistake ever to get into this
19 JERRY: I know it was
20 JIM: If we only had Slim here We don't seem to be getting
21 anywhere
22 JERRY: Hey Jim I've got an idea
23 JIM: What?
24 JERRY: We've got a portable radio set in Bertha's pack
25 JIM: Sure

JERRY: Let's get hold of Slim. We can contact him at the radio camp.

JIM: You mean so he could give us the radio words to say to Bertha?

JERRY: No, no. I mean we could get Slim on the radio and have him talk to Bertha through the loud speaker.

JIM: By George, what sounds like a corkin' good idea.

JERRY: I'll get the set. Whoo. Space.

HORSE STOMPS HOOFES

JIM: We can put it here on the ground and have Slim talking to his little playmate in no time at all.

JERRY: Sure. The set's right here on top. It won't take a minute.

SOUND OF HANDLING ROPE AND CANVAS AS JERRY UNPACKS RADIO

JIM: I don't know why we didn't think of that before.

JERRY: I think it'll work all right.

JIM: It's a good idea. Slim's skinnin' by remote control.

JERRY: Here we are.

JIM: String the aerial along the bank. I'll get it wound up.

CLICK OF SWITCH

JERRY: Think Slim'll be around the camp where we can reach him?

JIM: They had to unload and take a check.

JERRY: Then there ought to be somebody in the foreman's tent.

JIM: Reckon so -- What's their call number?

JERRY: Uh -- one seventy -- something -- seventy --

JIM: One seventy two.

JERRY: There's again. T-172.

CRACKLE OF STATIC

JIM: Calling Bright Canyon Road Camp, T-172 -- Calling T-172
Hello, T-172.

JERRY: Do you think they can pick us up from there?

JIM: They ought to be able to -- Calling T-172 -- Calling T-172
Bright Canyon road camp.

VOICE: (FILTER) T-172 Bright Canyon road camp. Go ahead.

JERRY: There they are.

JIM: Hello, Clarence. Jim Robbins calling. I want to speak to
Slim. Is he there?

VOICE: (FILTER) Yeah, he's here, Jim. Hold it.

JERRY: By golly, it won't be long now.

SLIM: (FILTER) Uh -- Hello, Jim. In that you?

JIM: Yeah, Slim. We're down at the head of the canyon with
Bertina. We've been trying everything we know to do, but
she won't move.

SLIM: (FILTER) Did you talk to her like?

JIM: We talked to her nice and every other way we could think of.

JIM: (OFF - FILTER) Oh, you can't abuse Bertina, Jim. She's
awful high strung, you know.

JIM: We talked as sweet as pie to her. But she still won't
budge.

SLIM: (FILTER) Well, I could come down there, but it'd take me
quite a while over that back trail.

JIM: No, Slim, there's time and time, we'll hold the microphone up to Bertha's ear and let you talk to her.

SLIM: (FILTER) Over the radio, you mean?

JIM: Sure. She'll recognize your voice.

SLIM: (FILTER) But she might get skeered, Jim.

JIM: We don't care how scared she gets, so long as she talks.

SLIM: (FILTER) I don't think it'll work, Jim.

JIM: Now listen, Slim, you've got to try it. We can't make camp here on the ledge of the canyon. You've got to do it, Slim.

SLIM: (FILTER) Well -- I'll give it a try, if you say so, Jim.

JIM: That's all we ask you to do. Now listen. We've tried being sweet and gentle. I think it'd be better if you yell at her, so she'd be sure it was you.

SLIM: (FILTER) Well, I'll try it once -- Are you ready?

JIM: Hold on a second.

JERRY: I'll hold the set up to her ear, Jim -- All right, Bertha, you old cockroach. This'll fix you.

JIM: We're ready now, Slim. Go to it.

SLIM: (FILTER) (SHOUTING) Yo, Bertha. Git outa there. You scrawny, flea-bitten old hide-rock. Git now -- is she movin', Jim?

JIM: She's got a kind of sur prised look on her face. Try it again.

